

## Chugach National Forest

### Crow Pass Iditarod National Historic Trail - Southern Trek



### Glacier Ranger District

**Difficulty:** More Difficult

**Length:** 4.5 miles to CNF boundary, 23 miles to Eagle River Nature Center

**Time:** 6 hours to CNF boundary and back

**Elevation Gain:** 2080 feet

**Season:** Mid - June to October. There can be snow through late June.

**Public Use:** Heavy

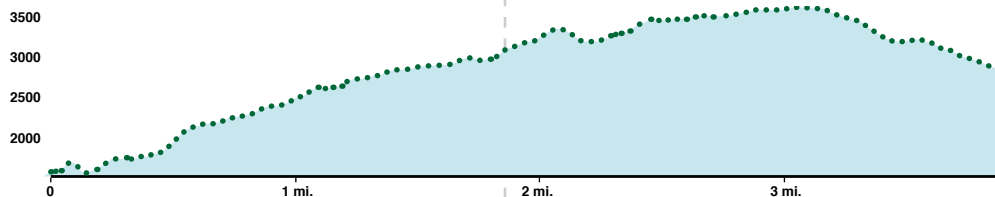
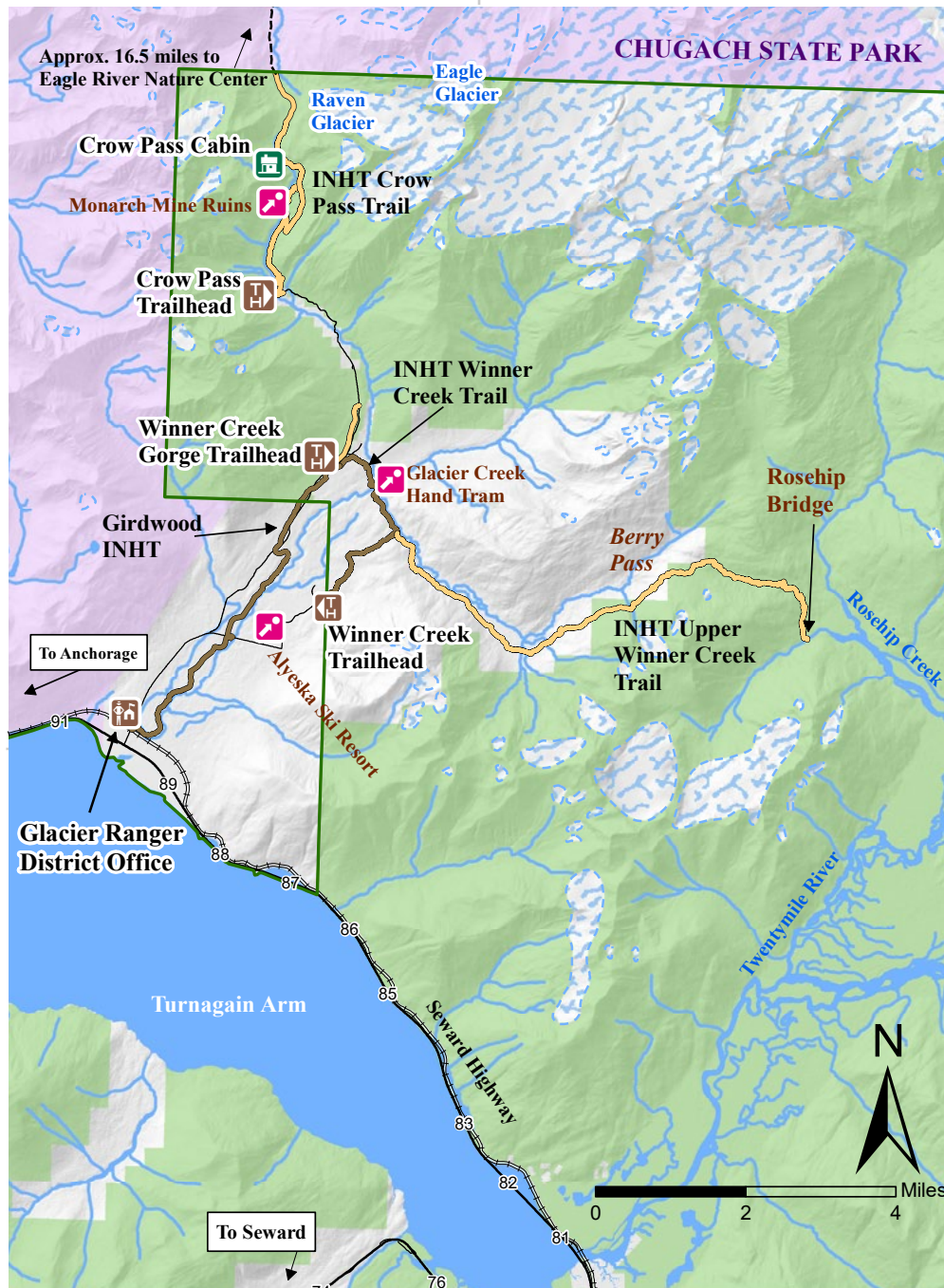
**Grade:** average 12%, maximum 25%

**Trail Condition:** Good. Rocks and other obstacles may obstruct the trail.

**Accessible from:** At mile 90 (35 miles south of Anchorage) turn onto Alyeska Highway. After two miles turn left at Crow Creek Road and continue for five miles.

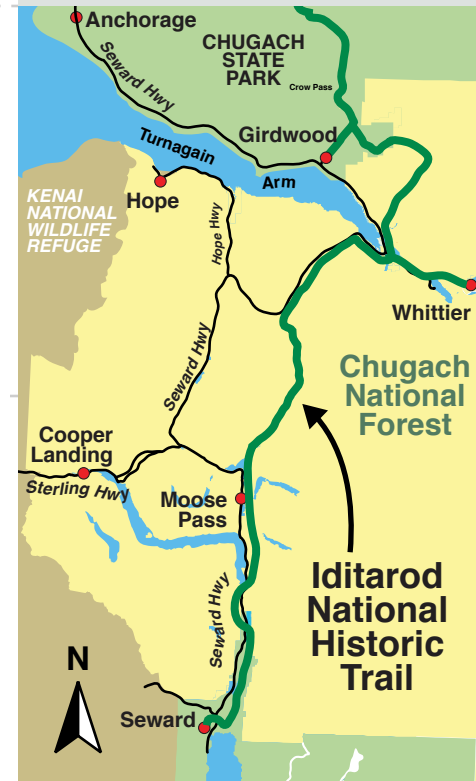
The road to the trailhead is narrow and winding. Use caution. There is a good-sized parking lot at the trailhead.

**Users:**



## Map Legend

- Iditarod-Year-round Trails
- Iditarod-Summer Use Trail
- USFS Cabin
- Trailhead
- Ranger Station
- Point of Interest



## PART OF THE IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Iditarod National Historic Trail - Southern Trek (INHT) is a 180 mile portion of the 1000 mile-long route. Winter travellers used it from the late 1800s to early 1900, though parts have been used for millenia by Alaska Native cultures. When you walk the INHT, you're walking in the footsteps of Alaska's indigenous people, and its gold miners, pioneers and dogsled mushers.



## TRAIL INFORMATION

This spectacular trail offers variety along a steady uphill climb, including steep switchbacks through alder for the first mile. There are many rocky scree crossings and large boulders along the route. You can see remnants of old mining equipment from the days of the original Iditarod Trail.

About a mile and a half up the trail you will come to a “Y” intersection. Turning right at the intersection will lead you to Crow Pass Cabin and a view of Raven Glacier.

Turn left at the “Y” to visit mine ruins and Crow Creek Cascades. You can reconnect with the upper route from there, and climb on to Crow Pass Cabin and beyond.

After Crow Pass, near the Raven Glacier Lookout, you enter the Chugach State Park and the trail becomes more primitive and decreases in elevation for another 19 miles to the Eagle River Nature Center.

For information on Chugach State Park visit [dnr.alaska.gov/parks](http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

**Glacier Ranger District**  
P.O. Box 129  
145 Forest Station Road  
Girdwood, AK 99587  
(907) 783-3242

**Chugach National Forest**  
161 East 1st Ave., Door 8  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 743-9500

[www.fs.usda.gov/chugach](http://www.fs.usda.gov/chugach)



### CROW PASS CABIN

At mile 3, at the top of the pass, there is a beautiful Forest Service public use cabin located on the shore of a pristine alpine lake. Occupancy of Forest Service cabins is by reservation only. Tent campers must stay at least 300 feet from the cabin. Visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) for reservations.

This cabin is unavailable to rent in the winter and spring due to avalanche danger.



### MONARCH MINE RUINS

Head left at the “y” and you will come to the Monarch Gold Mine ruins. The heavy equipment was brought to the site piece-by-piece in the early 1900s on horseback.

Do not disturb the historic artifacts. It is illegal to take anything from the site.

### RAVEN GLACIER

Less than a mile from the Crow Pass Cabin, visitors can view Raven Glacier and its roaring waterfalls. You can feel the cool winds blowing off the glacier even on the warmest of days.

Please use caution if hiking down to the glacier. Proper training is strongly recommended for glacial navigation and safety.



### GO SHORT OR GO LONG

The Crow Pass Trail makes a fantastic day hike from the Girdwood Trailhead to Raven Glacier lookout, about 3.5 miles one way. There are mine ruins, wildlife, glaciers and waterfalls on this challenging uphill hike. Many hike the 23 mile trail to the Eagle River Nature Center over several days. Be aware of snow banks present into late August, a wide, cold, deep crossing of Eagle River, and primitive trail conditions.



## KNOW Before you GO!

Areas around the mines can have concentrations of arsenic and mercury.

To minimize exposure avoid touching the soils, or touching or drinking the water in the stream by Monarch Mine.

Stay a safe distance from Monarch Falls, and if hiking with dogs keep a close eye on them.

## PLAN AHEAD

You are responsible for your own safety. Proper equipment and good judgment are essential for safe travel while on the Chugach National Forest.

Filter or boil water for five minutes before drinking to avoid giardia.

All creeks present hazards that can be dangerous. Cross creeks at low water levels. During winter use extreme caution when crossing bodies of water. Remember you cross at your own risk.

Winter travel can be hazardous and trails can cross through avalanche-prone slopes. Visit [www.cnfaic.org](http://www.cnfaic.org) for the latest avalanche conditions.

Let someone know your travel plans. Be Bear Aware and keep your distance from wildlife.

Contact a USDA Forest Service office for specific trail safety precautions.



- ☐ Plan Ahead & Prepare
- ☐ Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- ☐ Dispose of Waste Properly
- ☐ Leave What You Find
- ☐ Minimize Campfire Impacts
- ☐ Respect Wildlife
- ☐ Be Considerate of Other Visitors